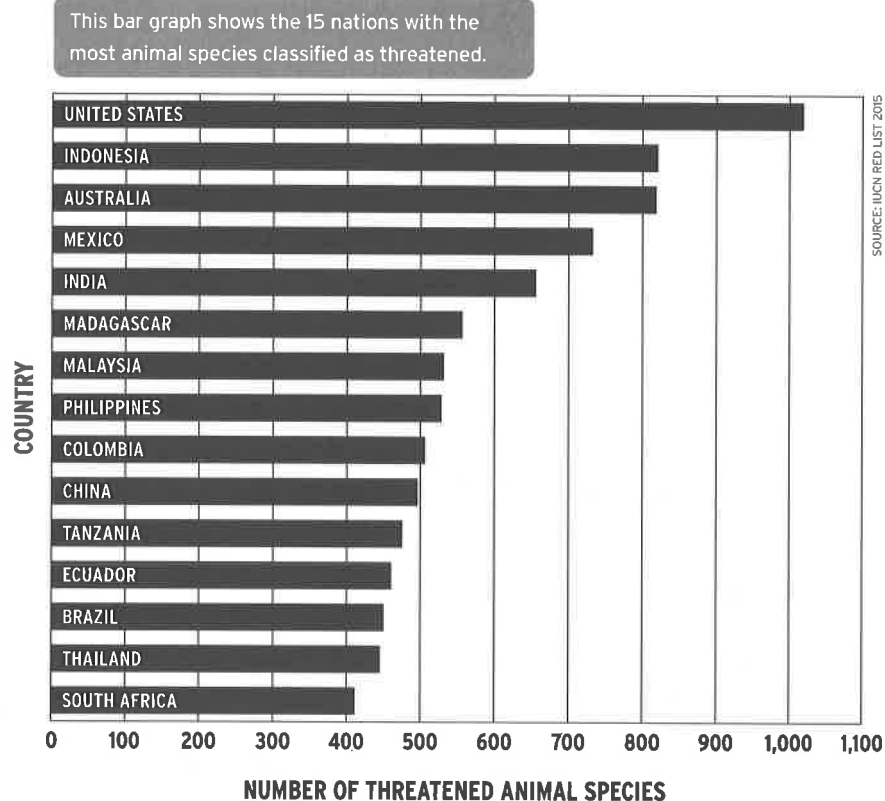


# 'Endangered' Zones

In Africa, hunting and habitat loss are huge threats to lions and other wildlife (see *article*, p. 10). But Africa's animals aren't the only ones in trouble. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), about 23,000 animal species worldwide are classified as threatened, from the tiny American burying beetle to the Asian elephant. Threatened species include those listed as critically endangered (facing a high risk of extinction), endangered, or vulnerable. The U.S. has had more species assessed than most other nations, which partly accounts for its position on the graph. The number of species considered threatened is likely to rise as the IUCN assesses other animals in more countries.



## ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- Brazil has about \_\_\_\_ animal species classified as threatened.
  - 408
  - 450
  - 475
  - 510
- In the U.S., about 6,000 animal species have been assessed. Based on the graph, almost \_\_\_\_ are threatened.
  - 8 percent
  - 12 percent
  - 17 percent
  - 28 percent
- About 15 percent, or \_\_\_\_ of the animals classified as threatened in China are mammals.
  - 75
  - 85
  - 95
  - 105
- Which of these continents is not represented on the graph?
  - Asia
  - South America
  - North America
  - Europe
- Zimbabwe, where Cecil the lion lived, has 43 threatened species. That's about one tenth the number in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Tanzania
  - Madagascar
  - South Africa
  - none of the above

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think the causes of animal endangerment are the same for all countries shown on the graph? Explain.
- Scientists say that threatened mammals, like lions, tend to get more public attention than other animals, like insects or fish. Why do you think that might be?
- What are some benefits to having an international organization like the International Union for Conservation of Nature keep track of the status of threatened animals in various countries?

# Animals vs. Humans

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

## CHECK COMPREHENSION

1. A dentist from Minnesota killed Cecil the lion after guides lured the creature out of a protected area in a \_\_\_\_ in Zimbabwe.
  - a zoo
  - suburb
  - national park
  - veterinary center
2. According to the article, a key argument in support of trophy hunting is that it
  - provides much-needed hunting jobs for villagers.
  - helps prevent habitat loss.
  - brings in money for conservation programs.
  - all of the above
3. In one park in Mozambique, locals are catching and killing lions because
  - they want to keep trophy hunters out of the country.
  - the lion population is growing fast and taking up too much space.
  - the lions are attacking livestock.
  - there is a growing local market for lion meat.
4. What country has a huge demand for ivory elephant tusks, according to the text?
  - the United States
  - China
  - Zimbabwe
  - Botswana

## ANALYZE THE TEXT

5. You can infer from the article that trophy hunting is
  - aimed at collecting body parts from wildlife.
  - the single greatest threat to African wildlife.
  - illegal throughout Africa.
  - unregulated throughout Africa.
6. Select the sentence from the text that best supports your answer to question 5.
  - "Africa has lost up to 60 percent of its large wild animals in the past 40 years."
  - "Some ban the killing of animals that can still breed or are critically endangered."
  - "... many wildlife experts contend that regulated hunting actually helps preserve wildlife ..."
  - "... some major U.S. airlines announced they would no longer transport big game 'trophies,' like lion heads."
7. In the article, Botswana villager Jimmy Baitsholedi Ntema says, "Now we don't benefit at all from the animals." You can infer that he
  - wants Botswana to get rid of lions and other big game.
  - has found evidence that money from trophy hunting has been handled improperly.
  - wants Botswana to bring back trophy hunting.
  - has fought to end the practice of trophy hunting.
8. The author's primary purpose in the section "Saving Namibia's Lions" is to
  - show that Namibia's lions are on the brink of extinction.
  - spotlight Namibia's successful conservation efforts.
  - explain why Namibia's hunting rules are ineffective.
  - reveal corruption in Namibia's trophy hunting program.

**IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS** Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

9. What effect is Africa's ballooning population having on its wildlife?
10. Why do you think Mike Hoffmann of the International Union for Conservation of Nature argues that "communities [must] feel like they do have a say" in wildlife conservation efforts? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.